

QA-120  
Sedgewick  
Bennett's Point  
Private

circa 1850

Sedgewick is an excellent example of a transitional house type that appeared in the mid-19th century, serving as a link between the Federal and Greek Revival houses of the first half of the century and the Victorian styles which followed. While retaining the basic rectangular, symmetrical form and the center hall plan, this house still departs considerably from earlier building tradition. It is a full three stories high, with the windows of the third floor located directly below the cornice rather than as dormers. The roof is a low-pitched hip rather than a sharply pitched gable, and the chimneys are located on the interior partition walls rather than the exterior gable walls.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sedgewick

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East side of Bennett Point Road

CITY, TOWN

Bryantown

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Maynard P. White, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21658

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 95

Folio #: 372

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-120

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Sedgewick is located on the east side of Bennett Point Road approximately seven miles south of Queenstown, and three miles north of the tip of Bennett Point. Directly adjoining Sedgewick on the south is Wye Landing (QA-121), the site of a small gambrel roof house that was destroyed by fire in recent years, and also the site of the old ferry which once connected the southern end of Wye Island with the mainland.

The house at Sedgewick is of brick construction, three stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a low-pitch hip roof and matching interior chimneys flanking a center hall. A two story frame addition projects from the northeast corner, and an open porch covers the first two stories on the south facade. The main house probably dates to the 1850's or 1860's, while the frame addition is believed to date to the 1880's. The porch on the south facade was

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

added in 1947, and replaced an earlier one story porch. An early brick dairy with a broad, overhanging pyramidal roof supported by posts is located to the east of the house. This building probably was built about the same time as the main house. The present owner has added several frame outbuildings in the last few years. These are faithfully copied from existing buildings in Kent and Queen Anne's County, and only lack further weathering to appear authentic.

The main house is very distinctive in appearance, largely due to a pair of decorative bands in the brickwork that define each story. The walls of the house are laid in random common bond, with a square-section watertable about three courses above ground level on each facade. A wider watertable is set two courses lower on the east gable, barely protruding above ground level, while there is no watertable at all visible on the west facade. An ornate and quite unusual belt course is carried across between the first and second floor on both facades. This consists of two projecting belt courses, each two courses wide, separated by four courses which have been painted white. There is no belt course between the second and third floor,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

but two courses have been painted white to create a similar affect. The first floor belt course is not carried across the gables, but the effect is maintained by painting three courses in a band between the first and second floor windows and two courses between the second and third floor. The result is quite startling, clearly defining each story of the house from a great distance, and giving the house a very refined though somewhat eclectic appearance.

The principal facade faces south, with the entrance located in the center bay flanked by large six-over-six windows. The door is paneled, with three-light sidelights and an eight-light transom. There are three six-over-six windows on the second floor and three three-over-three windows on the third floor, tucked in directly below the cornice. All windows and door openings have cut granite sills, and the first and second floor openings have splayed brick jack arch lintels. The eaves are boxed in, with decorative brackets applied below the soffit against a plain fascia board with a rabbeted edge. The original ballustrade or widow's walk which stretched between the two chimneys on the roof is gone, but the steep

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

companionway stair remains in the third floor stair hall, and the hatch remains functional, allowing access to the roof, which is standing seam tin.

On the west gable, a single six-over-six window is located in the center on the first and second floor, and a three-over-three window is centered on the third floor. The treatment of the openings and of the cornice is identical to the front facade.

The rear facade matches the front facade in every detail aside from the porch. The center door is not offset, as is often the case, and is equally refined, with sidelights and transom.

The east gable is partially covered by the later wing, which covers the north end of the wall and projects to the north beyond the rear facade of the main house. There is an original exterior door in the south end of the east gable on the first floor, a six-over-six window in the center on the second floor, and a three-over-three window in the center on the third floor. Evidence in the brickwork on this gable suggests there was an early, if not original, kitchen wing adjoining the southeast corner of the house. The exterior door on this end allowed access between the kitchen and the east parlour, which probably

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

served as a dining room. An unusual feature of this door is that one step is incorporated within the thickness of the wall, so that the exterior sill is almost at ground level, suggesting that the kitchen may have had a dirt or brick-paved floor. All decorative details on this gable are identical to the other facades.

The interior is arranged in a center hall plan, but with one major variation. The chimneys are located on the interior walls, flanking the hall, rather than on the gable walls. This is typical of houses built after about 1850, and has a somewhat unsettling affect on the interior circulation pattern, in that the focus of each room is reversed from the traditional gable chimney plan.

The west parlour on the first floor probably served as a formal room, while the east parlour was the dining room. As noted, there is an original exterior door in the south corner of the east parlour, and a later door in the north corner which leads to the wing. The fireplace is located in the center of the interior partition wall, with a door to the hall located to the left. All first floor windows have beveled jambs, and the interior door openings have

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

paneled jambs and soffits. A standard architrave is used on all openings. This is reminiscent of the trim commonly used in the 1840's and 1850's, and consists of a flat fascia with a full 3/4 bead on the inside edge, against which are applied two flat bands of trim. These form a recessed "panel" in the center of the fascia which is terminated by corner blocks at the top and plinth blocks at the bottom. The interior doors have six recessed panels with flattened ogee panel molds. The baseboard is rabbeted; there is no chairrail. All of the original mantels are gone, and have been replaced in recent years with mantels which predate the house.

The stair rises along the east wall of the hall, and is unusual in that it rises directly to the second floor without a landing. It has an open carriage, heavy turned newels, tapered round ballusters and a plain rail. The carriage piece is plain except for a flat band of trim which outlines the treads and risers. There is a small closet below the south half of the stair, with the north portion left open. The soffit under the stair is plastered, and the closet is enclosed with paneling.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

The second floor repeats the first floor plan, with the addition of an original unheated chamber at the south end of the stair hall. This reduces the space available for the stair to the second floor, and is compensated for by beginning the stair as a winder, then running in a straight flight along the east wall of the hall. The fireplaces have been blocked on this floor, and the mantels are not original. Small closets have been added in the northeast corner of both sleeping chambers, and the small chamber at the south end of the hall has been adapted as a bathroom. The window jambs are beveled, the door jambs and soffits are paneled. The architraves are a simplified version of the first floor, consisting of a rabbeted fascia board with a 3/4 bead on the inside edge and plain corner blocks.

Some of the original paint can be seen in the west room, where the wall paper has loosened. The walls were painted a medium green color, with bands of white near the ceiling.

The third floor plan is identical to the second floor, including the original chamber at the south end of the hall, and the later closets in the northeast

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

corner of each room. A steep companionway stair at the south end of the stair hall leads through a hatch to the roof. The ceiling is applied to the underside of the rafters, and there is no attic. The chimneys show no evidence of blocked fireplaces or stove flues, so it must be assumed that the third floor was not heated. The door openings to the east and west chamber have paneled jambs and soffits, but the surrounds consist of plain trim with plain cornerblocks. The doors have four recessed panels, and the baseboard is rabbeted.

The two story frame wing was altered somewhat in the 1947 renovation. An early photograph in the possession of Dr. White, the present owner, shows a two story frame wing with a gable roof and vertical board and batten siding. Although the overall proportions and fenestration remain largely unchanged, the roof was changed to a low-pitched hip to match the main house, and the board-and batten siding was replaced with plain horizontal weatherboards. A one story shed roof addition has been added to the east gable of the wing in recent years and now serves as a furnace room.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.8 DESCRIPTION

Dairy

To the east of the house is a small brick dairy with a large, overhanging pyramidal roof supported by posts. The dairy is only 8 feet square, but the roof overhangs  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet on each side, making the overall dimensions 19 feet by 19 feet. The door is located in the center of the west wall. A narrow rectangular ventilator opening is centered on each remaining wall, with a large rectangular opening in the center at the top of the wall. These are presently fitted with fixed louvered panels installed by the present owner. The roof framing is partially visible and is typical of the pyramidal form. The overhang is supported by nine square wood posts which were installed in recent years, presumably replacing earlier posts. An interesting feature found inside the dairy is a series of corbeled brick shelf supports in each corner of the building.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sedgewick is an excellent example of a transitional house type that appeared in the mid-19th century, serving as a link between the Federal and Greek Revival houses of the first half of the century and the Victorian styles which followed. While retaining the basic rectangular, symmetrical form and the center hall plan, this house still departs considerably from earlier building tradition. It is a full three stories high, with the windows of the upper floor located directly below the cornice rather than as dormers. The roof is a low-pitched hip rather than a sharply pitched gable, and the chimneys are located on the interior partition walls rather than the exterior gable walls.

To illustrate the difference, it is interesting to compare Sedgewick with the Crane-Trenchard House in Church Hill (QA-371). These two houses

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

were probably built within ten years of each other, and while they share a basic rectangular form and center hall plan, they are markedly different. The Crane-Trenchard House has a sharp gable roof, dormer windows, and end chimneys. Yet both houses share similar trim and identical baseboard and panel molds. Particular details of interest at Sedgewick include the unusual belt courses, the original paint scheme visible on the second floor, and the original woodwork.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

1/31/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

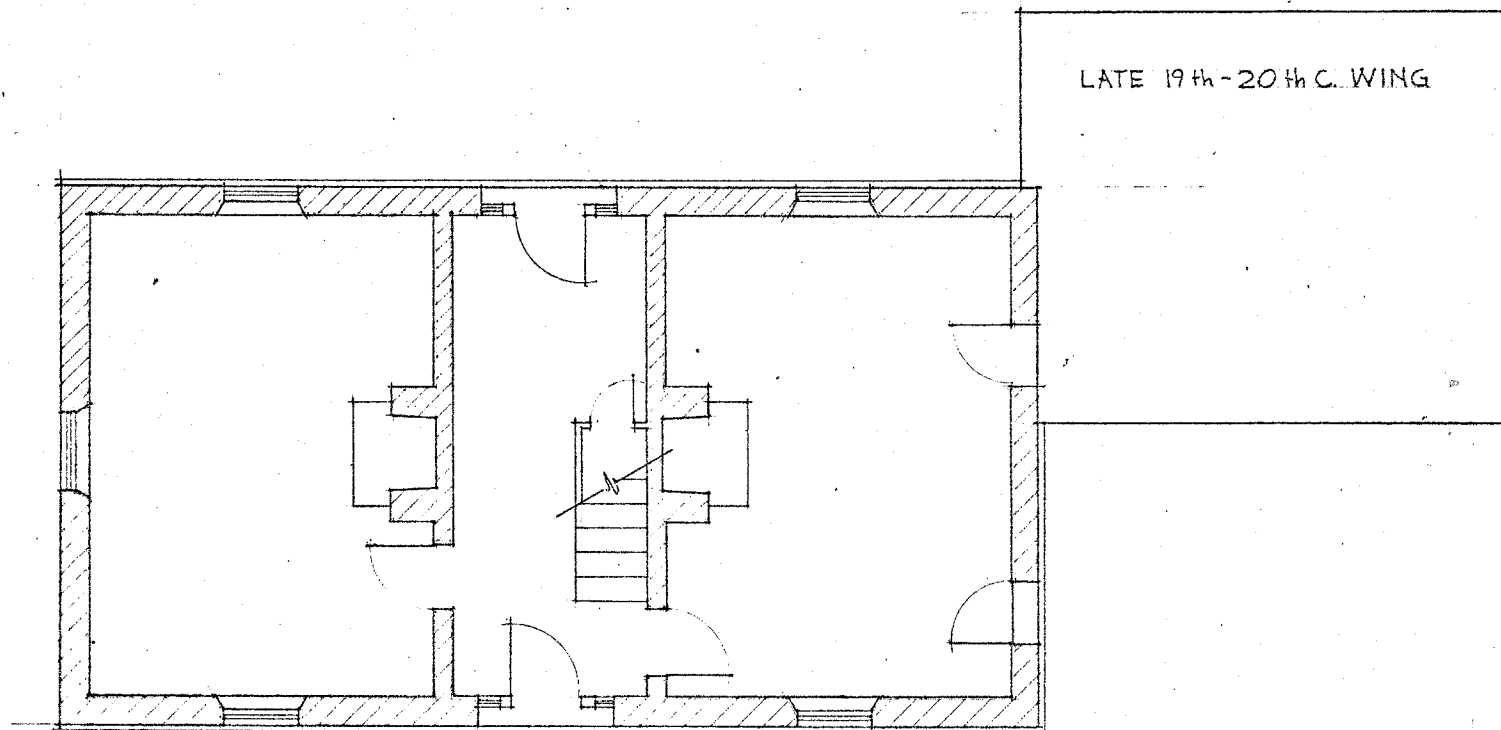
STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



0 2 4 6 8 10  
SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

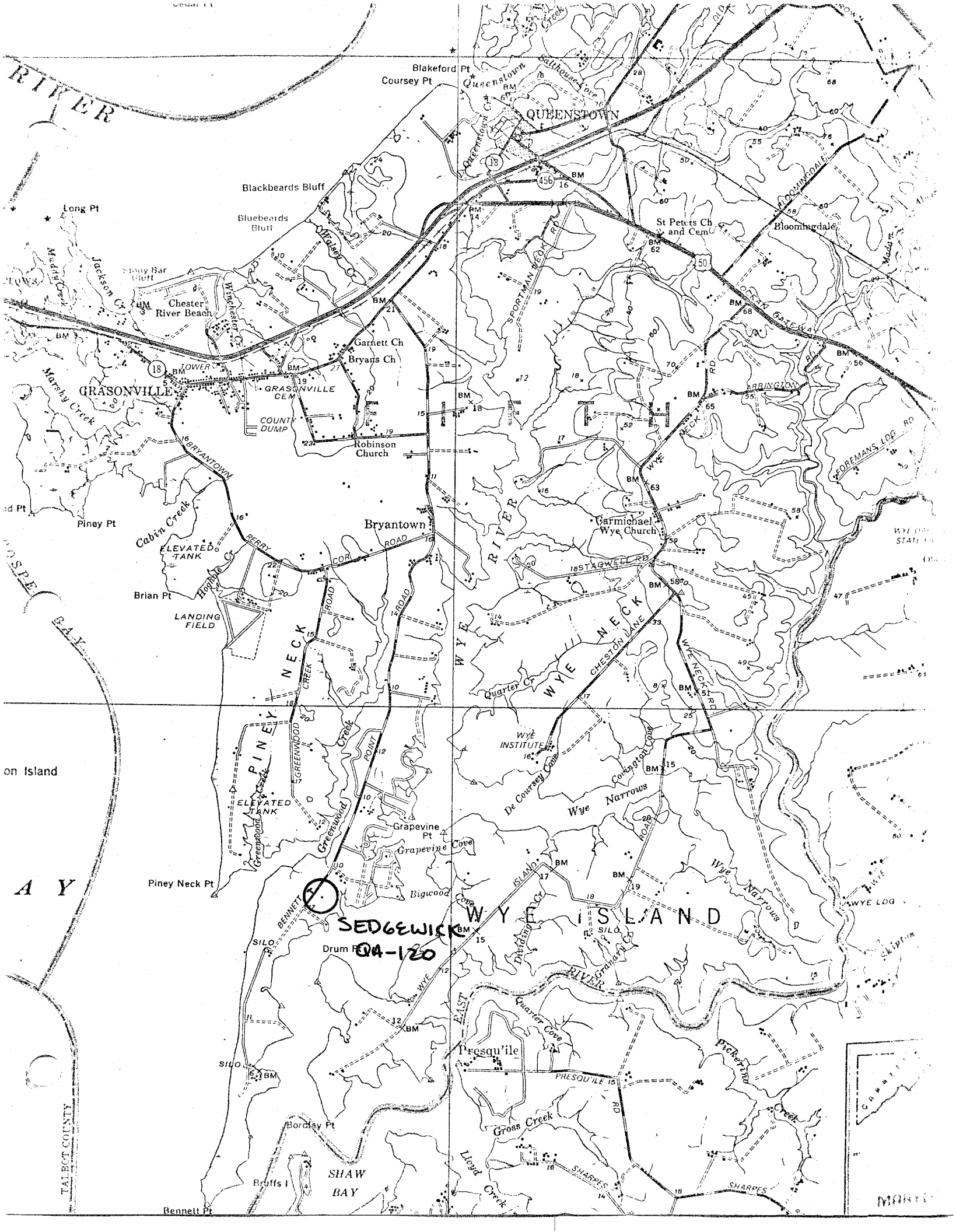


ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-120

SEDGEWICK  
BENNETT POINT, MARYLAND

JAN. 9, 1980







QA-120 Sedgewick

ORV 1978



QA-120 Sedgewick  
OKV 1978



QA-120 Sedgewick  
Benetts Point  
OR V 1978



QA-120 Sedgewick, diary  
OR ✓ 1978